



the First United Methodist Church of Portland

# CIRCUIT RIDER

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# JESUS SAID

I was  
hungry  
and  
you fed  
me ...

November is the month we stress the importance of cash donations to FISH Emergency Food Service. As their philosophy states, "Neighbor Helping Neighbor," FISH collects both canned and fresh food, clothing, personal care items, small household utensils, and financial donations to help children and adults in the community. For many of their clients, FISH Emergency Service is their last resort. Faced with a lost job, illness or other circumstance, they are unable to provide for themselves and their family. With your \$1.00 gift to FISH, they can buy approximately \$3.00 worth of needed food from the Oregon Food Bank. FISH depends on donations from congregations, businesses, foundations, and individuals to operate. FISH takes its name from a symbol used by the early Christian community to identify themselves to other Christians. The name now represents FISH's basic philosophy of neighbor helping neighbor. You can be a part of the helping process during November. Church and Society members will have a donation box and information in the narthex on Sundays, November 9, 16, and 23. Thank you all for your generous past support.

- Your Church and Society Team

## WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

First United Methodist Church of Portland declares that we will be an advocate for peace in our local communities and world. As a Reconciling Congregation, members of First United Methodist Church have pledged to welcome and support all who want to worship with us, regardless of race, gender, class or sexual orientation. Worship at 10:30 AM, Sundays.





**a message  
from  
our  
Pastor**

**Rev. Donna  
Pritchard**

Irish poet and theologian John O'Donohue says, "The heart of human identity is the capacity and desire for birthing. To be is to become creative ...". And Matthew Fox seems to echo this when he writes: "Creativity is the most elemental and innermost and deeply spiritual aspect of our beings ... Creativity is not a noun or even a verb – it is a place where the Divine powers of creativity and the human powers of imagination join forces."

I suspect creativity is also the place where our faith and our own inner artist converge. And it may be the place where the future of the church resides. Several years ago I began painting as a spiritual discipline, a way to connect to God's creative, loving presence and to get down out of my head into my heart. Before I could even begin to learn art techniques, I had to master the fears and judgments of a lifetime of perfectionism.

I will never forget the day I wandered around an exhibition of abstract paintings, musing to myself "I could paint that." Unbeknownst to me, the artist was standing directly behind me and had heard my comment, "I could paint that." She immediately replied, "Yes, you could ... so what is stopping you?"

Too often we stop ourselves from living in the fullness of our creative identity. Too often we stop each other from claiming the inner artist which knows all about faith. When we insist that the creative arts be confined to the professionals – clergy, musicians, artisans – or when we lift up the rational side of "knowing" God and neglect the intuitive side of "experiencing the Divine," we all lose a little of the richness and the power of faith. When we fail to notice that situations of conflict are often symptoms of individuals or groups who have lost a sense of imagination, we have given up on faith and the inner artist.

But the truth is – I can paint that – and so can you. All it takes to reconnect your faith with your own inner artist is your imagination. Imagination – that which Einstein called, "... more important than knowledge."

Join us in worship during the month of November, when we will use the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) to explore God's unlimited imagination for our lives, and as we consider what might happen when we once again let our imagination join forces with our faith. Again, as Matthew Fox puts it:

"Creativity is a choice. In theological terms it is grace and works operating together. It is choosing to live a life with grace."

See you in church – because YOU can paint that, too!

Grace and Peace,  
*Rev. Donna*

PS – If you were in worship on Sunday, October 26, you saw the cross and flame emblem which blew off the top of the bell tower during the wind storm of Saturday, October 25. The Board of Trustees are working alongside our Facilities Manager to find the best way to address this damage and prevent other material from falling off the bell tower.

# gather

## **UMW Unit Gathering**

The UMW Unit will meet Wednesday, November 5 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room. This will be our Pledge Service. Come celebrate and commit to supporting UMW's local, national, & global outreach. If you are unable to attend, please mail your pledge to our treasurer Shirley Blalock. The program will feature the Sunshine Division of the Portland Police Department. Since 1923, the Portland Police Bureau Sunshine Division has been providing food and clothing relief to Portland families and individuals in need. Whether due to the loss of a job, domestic crime, illness, or victims of fire or disaster, the Sunshine Division has built a legacy of mobilizing quickly and efficiently to assist distressed Portlanders. A salad bar will be served after the program. Donations will be appreciated. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Chair: Trudy Kayser, 503/292-7528

## **UMW's Reading Program - Book Chat**

Read-Learn-Listen - Discuss and explore new insights. Book Chat gatherings are planned for the first Wednesday of each month following the Unit Meeting in the Fireside Room. Books are selected from the UMW Reading Program to expand understanding and participation in God's mission for humanity in this changing world. All are welcome. Chair: Sandra Howard 503/786-3566

## **Naomi Circle**

Naomi Circle's October 23 meeting, "Souls and Saints," will offer a time to reflect on this autumn season of change and transition. Each person present will be invited to name saints they have known who have shaped their souls. Opportunities for remembrances, and for looking ahead toward pathways which deepen and enrich each moment and each day will be our goal. All are welcome; the meeting will begin at 2:00 PM, in the Terwilliger Plaza Clubroom. Chair: Colleen Foster, 503/808-7389.

## **Circle Of Friends**

The Circle of Friends will meet on Wednesday, October 29 at noon in the Fireside Room. "The Saints of UMW and Your Life" is the theme of the program. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Co-Chairs: Mary Covert 503/652-6480 and Trudy Kayser 503/292-7528

## **Planning Team**

The Planning Team will meet Wednesday, October 29 at 9:30 AM in Room 110.

## **Oregon/Idaho Conference UMW Annual Meeting**

The Oregon/Idaho Conference of the UMW will meet October 25 at First United Methodist Church in Eugene. This year's meeting theme is "Faith and Finance: Making it Work." It will include a lively panel discussion. Carpooling is available. Please call Trudy Kayser: 503/292-7528

# learn

## ★ **Christianity in a Changing World**

is an adult class studying Catherine Keller's, **On the Mystery**. "Creative, witty, and wise, it traces an adventure of the spirit for thinking folk, one that doesn't duck difficult questions but finds new ways through them."

9:00 AM/Room 202

## ★ **The Gathering** is a community of

parents of school-age children. We meet at the same time as the children's choirs and youth Sunday school: 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings in Room 204. Rev. Jeremy leads us each week in a time of conversation and study.



## **Blessing of the Animals**

Animals bring a richness to life, especially when we share our homes and hearts with them. Christianity has long celebrated the special bond between people and animals – through songs, prayers, and blessing ceremonies. You are invited to bring your furry (or scaly or feathered or hooped or ...?) friends to Room 202 on Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 PM for a service of thanksgiving and blessing. If your animal friend doesn't travel well, (or get along with others), bring a photograph for blessing. If you have recently lost a beloved pet, you are invited to bring your memories in thanksgiving. Cards will be available in the narthex a couple weeks in advance so that you can tell us about your animal friend and let us know you will be coming to the Service of Blessing and Thanks.



# this & that

## First Church Travelers

On Tuesday, November 18, join First Church Travelers on a tour of Portland State University, our downtown neighbor. The campus is located on a 50-acre campus near the Portland Park Blocks along with the new Life Sciences complex on the waterfront. Central to the tour will be breakthrough research within the College of Engineering along with new innovations in the teaching of science found in the new integrated facilities at the waterfront campus. We will gather at First Church at 8:30 AM and use MAX-Streetcar transportation with a return around 4:30 PM. Register with the church office before November 9. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

## First Church All-Church Conference

Our All-Church Conference will be Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. The gathering will be convened by Rev. Dan Wilson-Fey. Retired Elders and clergy with a Charge Conference relationship at Portland First UMC, be sure and have your reports in the church office by Monday, November 10.



**Sunday, November 9**

## Christmas Pageant Info Meeting

There will be a Christmas Pageant Interest Meeting on Sunday, November 2, at noon in Room 202. Children, grades pre-k through sixth grade, and their parents should plan to attend this Christmas Pageant Interest Meeting. Light snacks will be provided in Room 202 following the morning worship service. We will distribute the rehearsal schedule, provide sign up for parts, and measure children for costumes.

## Your Opportunity to SHINE!

First Church is continuing our partnership with William Walker Elementary, a diverse school located in the Beaverton School District. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at William Walker as a daytime helper, after-school volunteer, or assist with special projects, plan to attend the SHINE Orientation on Wednesday, November 5 from 3:30 to 4:40 PM. The orientation will be located on the school's campus, 11940 SW Lynnfield Lane, Portland.

## UMCOR Youth Sewing Workshop

All Momentum, Confirmation, and High School students are invited to join the Tabitha Sewers for a sewing workshop. Students will learn basic sewing skills on machines and work on projects to support UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Plan to attend Sunday, November 9 from 12:00 – 3:00 PM, in Room 202. Lunch will be provided. Both students and parents are encouraged to attend. Learn about UMCOR. Learn how to sew. Learn what can be done to alleviate human suffering around the world.

## Building an Inclusive Church

On Saturday, October 26, First Church hosted the workshop, *Building an Inclusive Church*, attended by 46 people. Even more had expressed interest and definitely want to be involved in the Reconciling movement. Everyone was enthused and eager to engage in the process of moving toward becoming Reconciling Congregations. Reconciling Congregations affirm and work toward full inclusion of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered persons in the United Methodist Church. I was really proud of our First Church folks who stepped up to make everyone welcome, share our experience of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, and suggest resources. In addition, they provided a wonderful lunch for our guests ... and don't forget the dishwashers! Our own Rev. Donna opened the workshop by sprinkling us with water as a reminder of our baptisms. Rev. Jeremy closed the session with his usual good humor and wisdom. It was a lovely day and we look forward to helping other United Methodist Congregations become a part of the Reconciling Movement. Thanks to all of you who made this day possible and for your support and encouragement.

Colleen McClain,  
Reconciling Advocacy Chair



### Meet Our New Sanctuary Bells Director

We would like to welcome Kris Sparks as our new Sanctuary Bells Director. Kris holds a Bachelor of Music Ed. degree from Washington State University and received her Masters of Music Ed. from Lewis and Clark College. She spent 30 years as a music specialist for the Lake Oswego School District and retired in 2003. She taught instrumental, vocal, and general music at all levels. After retiring, she opened a music studio for adults only called, "It's Never Too Late!" She currently teaches private piano in her studio. Through the years, Kris has shared her musical skills at several churches. For 14 years she was most the Music Director for Tualatin Presbyterian Church. Kris has also directed various handbell choirs around the Portland metro area. She was the interim director for Bells of the Cascades, an auditioned community handbell ensemble. She also plays clarinet in the Lake Oswego Millennium Concert Band. Currently, she is the Director of Handbell Ensembles at Concordia University in Portland. Join us in welcoming Kris to the Music Ministry of our church.



### Prayers of Sympathy

For Bill & Thelma MacDonald, on the loss of their son, Gary ...

For the family of George Rives, George passed away at the age of 99. His memorial service will be held Saturday, November 22, at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary ...

### Prayers of Concern

Allen Lumsden, continues to have health difficulties ...

Betty Cobb-Colgan, who has continuing health concerns ...

Jim McManus, had recent surgery and is doing very well ...

Paul Ingram's father, Guy Ingram, recently had quadruple bypass surgery ...



*"We all pray whether we think of it as praying or not. The odd silence we fall into when something very beautiful is happening, or something very good or very bad. The "Ah-h-h-h!" that sometimes floats up out of us as a skyrocket bursts over the water. The stammer of pain at somebody else's pain. The stammer of joy at somebody else's joy. Whatever words or sounds we use for sighing with over our own lives. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to ourselves ..." - Frederick Buechner (www.frederickbuechner.com)*



### Dementia, Memory Loss & Alzheimer's

What are the odds on developing Alzheimer's? What's the difference between dementia and Alzheimer's? Can Alzheimer's be treated? What are the medications used? These are just some of the difficult questions that face many of us. On Saturday, November 15 from 10:30 AM to noon in the Fireside Room, Graceful Aging will focus on dementia, memory loss, and Alzheimer's. This is your opportunity to ask your own questions regarding these issues. Shelly Edwards, a First Church member, and our resident expert on Alzheimer's, will take your questions and guide our discussion. Shelly was recently the Outreach and Program Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Please email or call Mark Ohlson to reserve a spot for this program, for planning purposes. [mohlson@fumcpdx.org](mailto:mohlson@fumcpdx.org) | 503/228-3195

### Community Warehouse Drive a Success!

Our recent drive for Community Warehouse brought the best response ever! Great job, folks.

In addition, we were able to respond to their need for some specific medical equipment. "We just wanted to let you know the wheelchair was connected to a client through Case Manager and they are very, very pleased. Similarly, I'm sure the walker will find a grateful home in the next week or two. Your congregation goes above and beyond to support us, and those less fortunate who come to us for help. These are perfect examples of how your church continues to have a direct, positive impact on the lives of their neighbors in need. It is a very heart-warming, encouraging thing to experience." Rena Satre Meloy, Communications Manager for Community Warehouse



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